CLAMP 3 GATE 7 ゲートセブン

DARK HORSE

TRYING TO RAISE a small army to fight against a reincarnated military tyrant, Hana and the members of her strange Ura-shichiken squad come together to protect humanity in present day Kyoto. Using their mystical dominion over the elements, the colorful crew faces a torrent of hostile invaders as they try to pinpoint their elusive enemy and entice more allies to their side. Chikahito, a seemingly ordinary teenager, has been accepted into Hana's group and thrust into the middle of this war—but it's possible that he has latent powers of his own!

CLAMP *continues to astound and tantalize, as a battle for supernatural supremacy rages across the pages of* Gate 7*!*

GRAPHIC NOVEL / MANGA / FANTASY
ISBN 978-1-59582-902-3
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$10.99 US / $11.99 CAN DarkHorse.com
DARK HORSE MANGA

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3

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GATE 7 VOLUME 3

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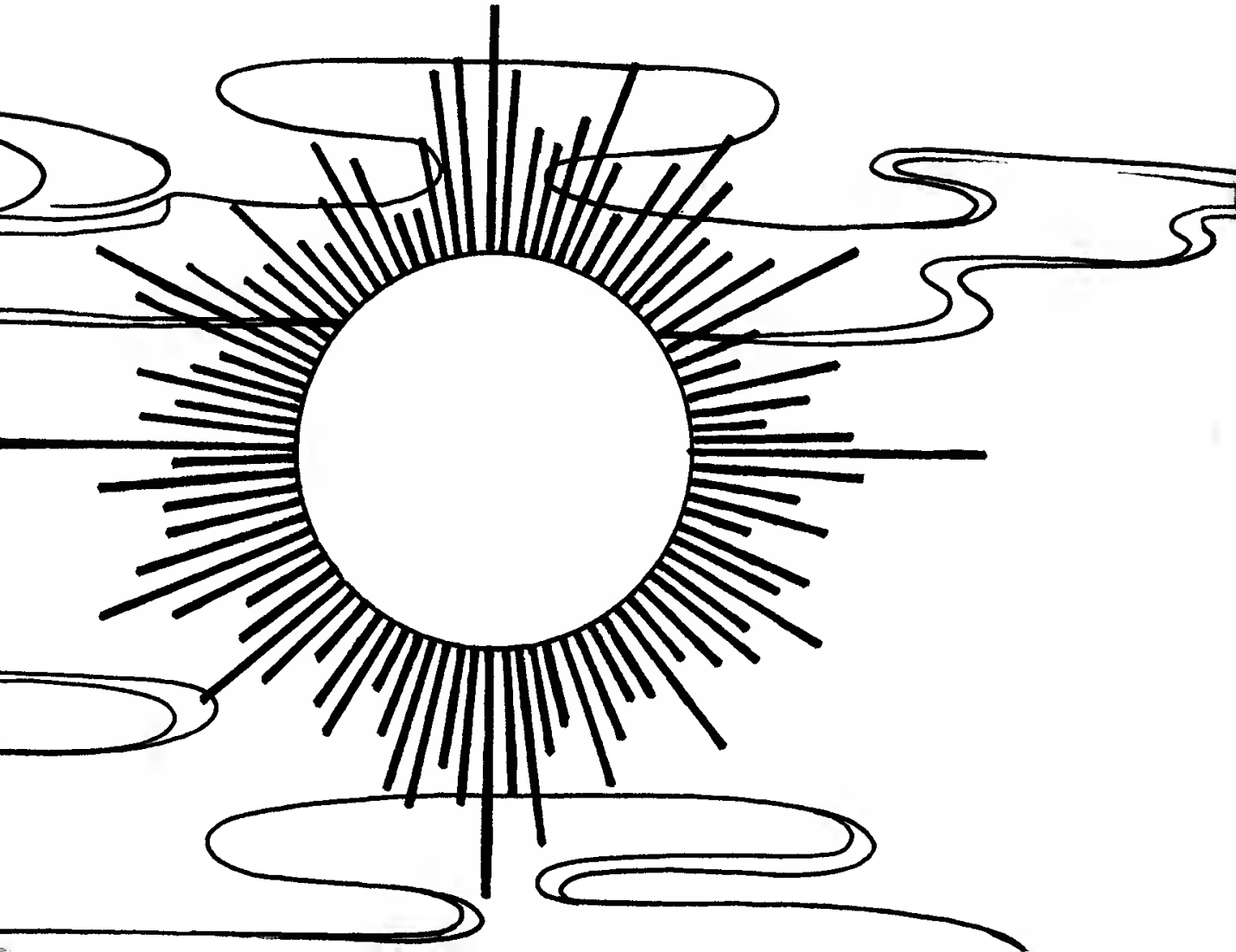


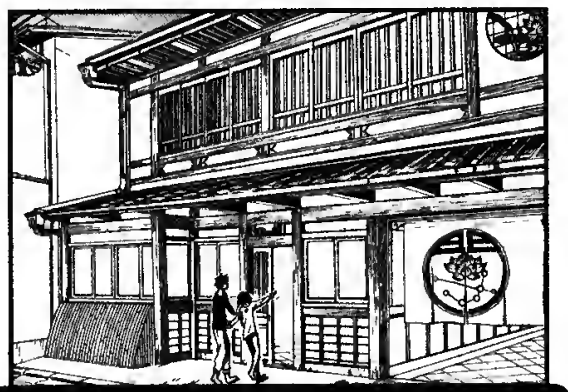
MAIN CHARACTERS

CHIKAHITO TAKAMOTO

A high-school student who loves everything about Kyoto, including its history, shrines, temples, and cuisine. He met Hana and the others on a sightseeing trip to Kyoto.

SAKURA

A member of the Ura-shichiken who acts as the controller of all shadow-based elemental weapons. He is easygoing and treats Chikahito with kindness.



URA-SHICHIKEN

*A district located near the Kitano Tenmangu Shrine that is home to a group of people—also called the Ura-shichiken, followers of the Toyotomi clan—who have paranormal talents (*inou*) and are enlisted to protect the local area and Toyotomi interests.*

HANA

A member of the Ura-shichiken who can control the forces of myoho. *She loves noodle dishes. With a kiss, Hana cast a spell on Chikahito that caused him to move to Kyoto.*

TACHIBANA

A member of the Ura-shichiken who acts as the controller of all light-based elemental weapons. He is always very protective of Hana and brusque toward Chikahito.

TENKAI

A vassal of Iemitsu who can mystically envelop areas at will.

MASAMUNE DATE

Having taken the name of Masamune Date, the One-Eyed Dragon, this interesting youth is in a blood contract with the oni *Kurikara and dotes on Hana.*

KOJYUUROH KATAKURA

A person who acts as babysitter for Masamune Date. Kojyuuroh's body is the sheath for the oni *Kurikara, hiding the sword within until it's ready.*

YUKIMURA SANADA

A nursery-school teacher who can merge with the oni *Engetsu in order to wield its full strength.*

IEMITSU TOKUGAWA

The Tokugawa leader currently holding the most power in the clan. He is in a blood contract with the oni *Mitsuha, who eats humans.*

MITSUYOSHI YAGYUU

A vassal of Iemitsu who is usually referred to as Jyubee.

MITSUHIDE AKECHI

A man who is after the powerful oni *called Dairokutenmaoh. Mitsuhide's* oni *is named Enka.*

SANADA'S TEN BRAVES

Ten warriors who act on Yukimura Sanada's orders.

ONI *Beings who honor blood contracts with humans in order to grant them great strength and special powers. A blood contract with an* oni *can only be inherited by the descendant with the strongest blood relationship to the original contract holder.*

STORY SO FAR

While on a sightseeing trip to Kyoto, high-school student Chikahito Takamoto stumbles onto a paranormal battle taking place in a dark, strangely enveloped space. The fight involves Hana, Sakura, and Tachibana—three members of the Ura-shichiken. Three months later, Chikahito finds himself transferring to Kyoto and reuniting with the group. At one point, when Sakura and Tachibana are away, Hana is surprised by the aggressive Mitsuhide Akechi. However, Masamune Date arrives to save Hana from a tough confrontation. Later, when Sakura and Tachibana hear Chikahito's description of a young man he'd just met at the Kitano Tenmangu Shrine, they realize that the man was probably Iemitsu Tokugawa, who is after the oni *Dairokutenmaoh. As people in blood contracts with* oni *become much more active, the members of the Ura-shichiken pay a visit to Yukimura Sanada with an invitation to join forces with the Toyotomi clan. Yukimura would like to gauge the fighting power of the Ura-shichiken first, though, and faces Sakura in battle . . .*

CHAPTER EIGHT: THE POWER OF YUKIMURA

PHEW!
THAT GUY'S GOOD.
MURMUR
YUKI-MURA-SAMA!
...THE ABILITY TO CREATE WEAPONS FOR HANA-SAN?
ISN'T SAKURA-SAN'S POWER...

...IS TO BECOME ONE WITH HIS WEAPONS.
NO.
SAKURA'S TRUE POWER...
BUT TACHIBANA-SAN SEEMS SO WORRIED ABOUT THAT!
IS THAT OKAY?

...ISN'T WITH HIM RIGHT NOW.
THE THING THAT MAKES SAKURA STRONG-EST...
EH?
SO... WHAT MAKES SAKURA STRONG-EST?
NO. IT ISN'T OKAY.
わた PANIC
わた PANIC
UH--
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO JUST COME OUT AND TELL ME SECRET STUFF LIKE THAT?!
IT'S FINE.
SA-KURA'S ...
...ONI.
BECAUSE YOU'RE CHIKAHITO.
HANA-SAN...

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
IT COULD BE DANGEROUS, BUT THE ONLY THING SAKURA CAN DO IS COMBINE WITH TACHIBANA'S WEAPON.
IF HE DIDN'T, HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT YUKIMURA AND ENGETSU.
BUT ...
...YOU LIKE THIS KIND OF THING, RIGHT?
GET-TING INTO FIGHTS ...
...AND PUTTING YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE EACH TIME YOU FACE THE NEXT FOE?
GRATTCH

KRAKOOM
GUH!
SSSH!

SAI-ZOU!
I KNOW... DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF YUKIMURA-SAMA!
FOR YOUR ENVELOP-MENT TO STILL STAND AFTER THAT...
...YOUR NINJA MUST BE TOP NOTCH.

YUKI-
MURA-
SAMA
!!
BUT
...
VWAAN
KRIK
KSSH

UGHH!
WHP
DON'T LOWER YOUR--
DON'T ...
EYES!
YUKIMURA-SAMA'S EYES ...
...ARE ON YOU RIGHT NOW!

YOUR MAN WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE...
...MUCH MORE OF THIS.
CLENCH
POH
POH
POH
POH

WHP

SKASSH
!
TACHI-
BANA-
SAN!
YOUR
ARM
--!
IF THE
WEAPON
TAKES
DAM-
AGE...
...THE
ONE WHO
MADE IT
TAKES
DAMAGE,
TOO.

SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.
I GOT
YOU ALL
BLOODY.

TH--
THEN
THAT
MEANS
...

IF YOU'RE
REALLY
SORRY--
HURRY UP
AND FINISH
THIS!

YEAH.
I'LL KISS YOUR SCRATCH FOR YOU ONCE THIS IS OVER. I JUST NEED A LITTLE LONGER.
NOT INTER-ESTED.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME TO END THIS...
...GEN-JIRO YUKI-MURA SANADA ?

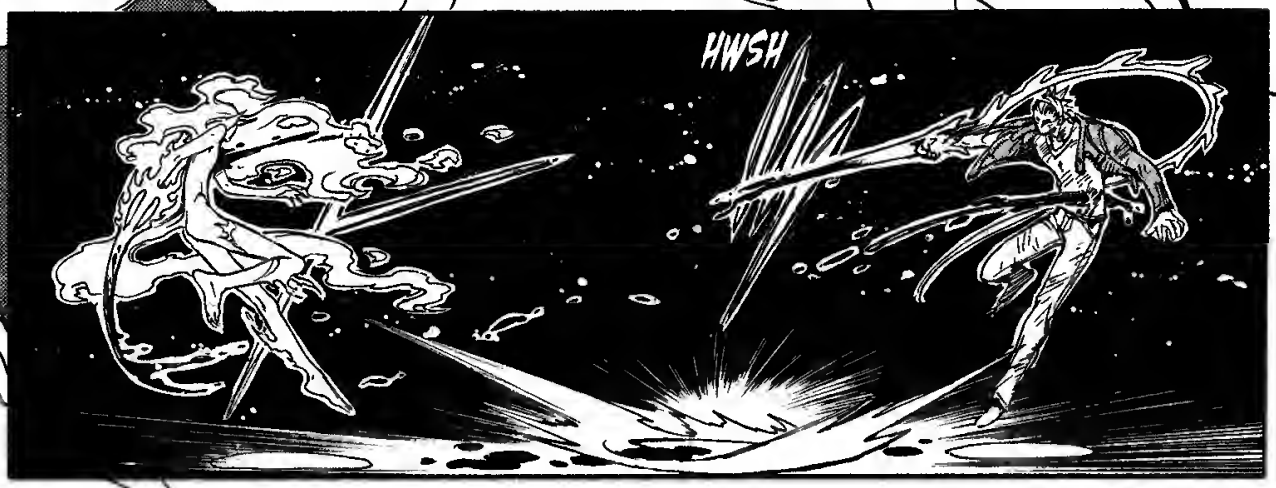
KNICH
KNICH
KNICH
KNICH
KNICH
KNICH
KRAK
ZRRRATCH
LICK
SKETCH

TMP
KROOM

SAKURA-SAN!!
SHFF
WHOOSH!

IF I DIDN'T RISK THIS...
...I COULD NEVER GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU DOWN, YOU KNOW?
YUKI-MURA-SAMA!!
WHOOSH

STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
WHPP
WE HAVE YET TO HEAR...
...YUKIMURA-SAMA'S DECISION.


HWSH

I CONSENT.
VNN

ZWNN

WE--
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND GET HIM TO A HOS-PITAL!!

WHIP
YO.
HANA
!

IT DIDN'T GO AS WELL AS BEFORE.
I HOPE YOU CAN LET IT SLIDE!
HUG
HOW LONG WERE YOU GOING TO TAKE?
SOR-RY!
GRAB
IF IT HAD...
...I'D HAVE BURIED YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS.

SLUMP
SAKURA-SAN!!
WAIT!
H-HEAVY!
UUOOOH
SAKURA-SAN!
SAKURA-SAN!!

WHMMP
YUKI-MURA-SAMA...
IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO...
...TO PRE-PARE...
...FOR THE NEXT BATTLE.

I SHOULD TRY TO NEGOTIATE WITH HIM.
AWW!
THAT WOULD BE A FUTILE EFFORT.
YUKIMURA SANADA WENT OVER TO HIDETSUGU'S SIDE?
ONCE SANADA HAS MADE A DECISION, NOTHING EVER CHANGES IT.
AND THE TEN BRAVES LISTEN TO NO ONE BUT HIM.
I KNOW THAT.
KRAK
KNNCH

I MUST SAY, JYUBEE, YOUR INOU POWER...
KYUH
...IS VERY CONVENIENT.
KRAK
BEING ABLE TO SPY INTO ANY ENVELOPMENT...
KRNCH
IF THE ONE CREATING THE ENVELOPMENT IS STRONGER THAN I AM, I CAN'T SEE IN.
BESIDES ...
...YOUR OWN POWER, IEMITSU-SAMA, IS MUCH MORE CONVENIENT.
WELL ...
YEAH, I SUPPOSE.
KRNCH

YEAH!
I JUST LOVE THAT!
AND WHEN WHAT I WANT TRIES TO RESIST OR RUN, I LOVE IT ALL THE MORE!
...YOU ALWAYS WANT WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE.
BUT, YOU KNOW...
GRRCH
KRAK
EVER SINCE THE OLD DAYS, YOU'VE WANTED...
...TO OBTAIN BY FORCE THAT WHICH SHOULD BE BE-YOND YOUR GRASP.
KRIK
KRITTCH

...HAS BEEN SUGI-HIME!
KTTCH
AND RECENTLY, THE BEST AT THAT...
KRAK
BUT EVEN BETTER ...
...IS HER ON/ THAT CAN SEE FARTHER AHEAD THAN ANY OTHER LIVING THING.
SHE'S SO CUTE.
HER HATRED OF ME IS JUST A BONUS!

THAT'S WHY...
KTTCH
KARK
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH MITSUHA WANTS HER...
...SHE'LL STAY MY PET... RATHER THAN BECOME MIT-SUHA'S LUNCH.
CHOMP

THE FACT THAT THE URASHICHIKEN WOULD BE COMING HERE...
...IS SOMETHING SUGIHIME FORETOLD.
AND THEN THERE'S ...
...ME...
...AND MITSUHA'S INOU POWER.

...IN THIS WAR.
...THE TOYOTOMI CLAN WILL BE DEFEATED.
NOW THAT WE TOKUGAWA HAVE THOSE TWO...
...JUST AS IN THE WARRING STATES PERIOD...
KNOWING THAT...
...I WANT THEM TO GIVE ME AS MUCH ENJOYMENT AS I CAN GET...

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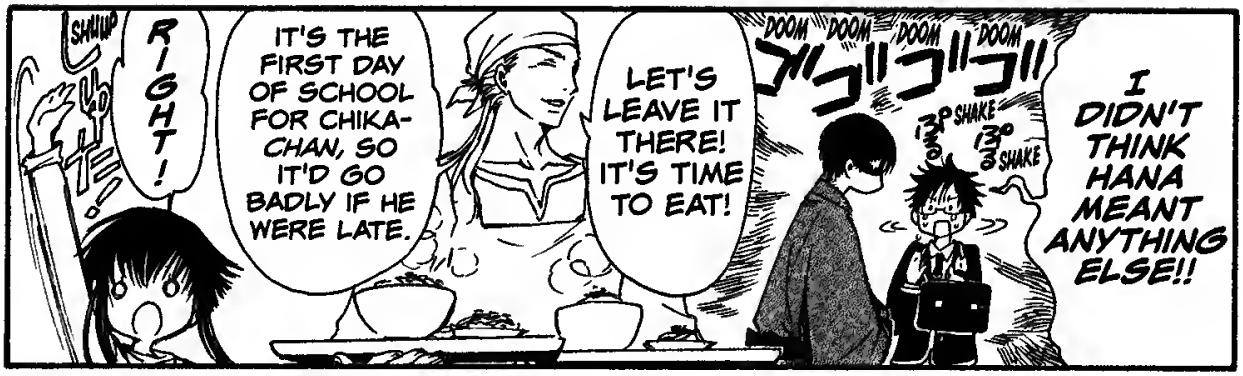
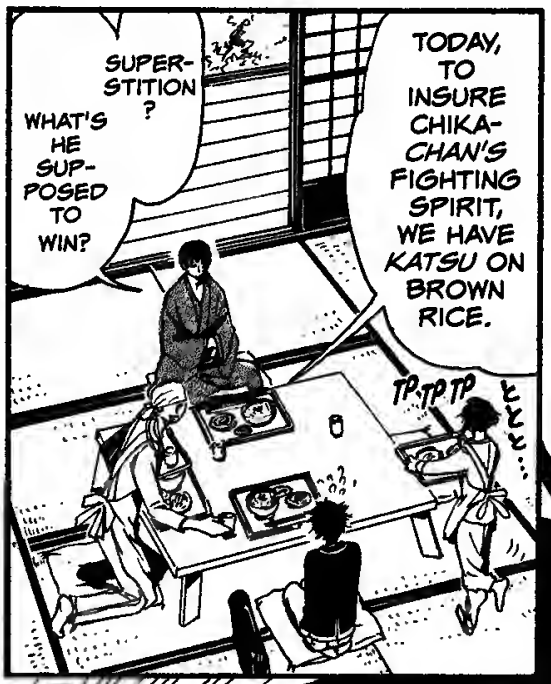
CHAPTER NINE: CHIKAHITO AND IEMITSU

GO CALL CHIKA-CHAN, OKAY?
GOOD! DONE!
YEP!
HANA?
TPと TPと TPと
TUMP ぽた ぽた
TUMP
TUMP
YES!
CHIKAHITO!
STARE じぃっ。。

WHAT ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WEIRD?
LOVE!
EH?!
BLUSH
かあああ
あ
I JUST LOVE THAT LOOK!
IT LOOKS REALLY GOOD!
STAARE
AH ...
THE UNI-FORM ...
STAB
WHAT DID YOU THINK HANA WAS REFERRING TO, FREE-LOADER?!


SHUUP
RIGHT!
IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR CHIKA-CHAN, SO IT'D GO BADLY IF HE WERE LATE.
LET'S LEAVE IT THERE! IT'S TIME TO EAT!
DOOM DOOM DOOM DOOM
ゴゴゴゴ!!
SHAKE SHAKE
I DIDN'T THINK HANA MEANT ANYTHING ELSE!!

CLENCH
I'M JUST A TRANSFER STUDENT, SO I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN! I'M HAPPY FOR ANY SPIRITUAL SUPPORT!


TODAY, TO INSURE CHIKA-CHAN'S FIGHTING SPIRIT, WE HAVE KATSU ON BROWN RICE.
SUPER-STITION?
WHAT'S HE SUP-POSED TO WIN?
TP-TP TP
とと…

AH!
BUT HANA-SAN, THESE AREN'T NOODLES...
THAT'S OKAY.

EXTRA HELPINGS!!
おかわり
FOOOOH
I LOVE HARU-SAME VERMICELLI TOO!

HANA-SAN...
ALSO ...
...IF IT HELPS YOUR SPIRIT, CHIKAHITO, IT MUST BE GOOD.

AH!
DOOM DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM DOOM
DOOM

PAHH
THAT KYOTO DIA-LECT!

GIVE IT YOUR BEST.

YOU'RE NOT FOR-GETTING ANY-THING?
GOT IT ALL.

BEYAAH!!
ぴゃっ
YOU WANT TO BE LATE ON YOUR FIRST DAY, FREE-LOADER?
ダレたたたたたたたたたた
HANA?
I'M GOING WITH HIM!
EH? YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL TOO, HANA-SAN?
I ASKED HANA TO DO SOME SHOPPING...
...IN THE KITANO SHOPPING DISTRICT.
LET'S GO!
OH...
OKAY!
SEE YOU LATER!
HWSH
S---
SEE YOU LATER!!

WHAT ARE YOU SENDING HANA OFF WITH THAT FREE-LOADER FOR?
IT CERTAINLY ISN'T MY IDEA.
HANA WANTED TO GO WITH CHIKA-CHAN.
I'M NOT BOORISH ENOUGH TO STOP HANA.
I SHOULD BE OFF, TOO.
FWUP
. . . . .
WHICH WOMAN TODAY?
THE SHAMI-SEN MASTER.
THE ONE IN PONTO-CHO?
YEAH.
GOT YOUR CELL PHONE?
SNAG
GOT IT.

KEEP IT WITH YOU!
AFTER ALL, NO MATTER WHO I'M WITH, ALL I CAN EVER MANAGE IS A LIGHT DOZE.
EVEN IF IT'S A SMALL DISTANCE AWAY, ONCE IT RINGS, I WAKE UP.
BUT EVEN SO...
...I CAN USUALLY EKE A SHALLOW, QUICK DREAM OUT OF THAT.
BUT... IF YOUR *ONI* WERE RETURNED TO YOU, YOU COULD SLEEP, RIGHT?
MAY-BE...
...BUT IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT SOME THINGS WILL NEVER BE RE-TURNED TO ME.

NOW THAT IT'S APRIL, I'LL BE GOING TO A KYOTO SCHOOL STARTING TODAY.
IT GETS ME THINK-ING...
WOW! CUTE!
BEAUTI-FUL IS A BETTER WORD.
KYAA
A BOY ...?
KYAA
THAT'S A GIRL, RIGHT ?
I AGREE. ABSO-LUTELY BEAUTI-FUL.
HANA-SAN.
NO LESS BEAUTI-FUL THAN THAT PURPLE-EYED BOY?
THEY'RE BOTH BEAUTI-FUL.

I MUST ADMIT...
IT MAKES A PERSON'S HEART RACE.
EH?!
BLUUSH
NO!
I FIGURED YOU'D BE EXCITED, SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO A NEW SCHOOL, BUT--
ACTUALLY, HANA-SAN, YOU'RE THE MOST--
I'M THE MOST WHAT, NOW?
POP
POP
NOT THAT I'M THINKING ANYTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT--
WHOA!!

MORNING, ENGETSU.
.....
NO, ENGETSU! YOU MUSTN'T!
TWITCH
TMP
ぽに
TMP
ぽに
GOOD MORNING.
MORN-ING.

...OR RATHER, MOVED INTO KAMI-SHI-CHIKEN.
SPEAK-ING OF NEW SCHOOLS ...
...THIS PERSON MOVED TO KYOTO...
GNICH
WHP
THEY SAY SANADA-SAN ENTERED INTO A CON-TRACT WITH HIDETSUGU-SAN.
AND ALSO ...
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENS EXACTLY WHEN TWO PEOPLE FIGHT OVER AN ONI.
SHIVER
...THEY SAY THAT IEMITSU'S ONI FEEDS ON HUMANS...

DOES EN-GETSU GET OUT OFTEN?
YES.
VWNNN
GUHFF!
EVEN WHEN I DON'T SUMMON IT, IT COMES TO BE BY MY SIDE OFTEN ENOUGH.
I ASSUME IT'S TRYING TO PROTECT THE ONE IT'S CONTRACTED TO.

IT'S A SIGN...
...THAT IEMITSU-KO IS ON THE MOVE.

PLEASE ...
...FORGIVE ENGETSU'S EXUBERANCE.
SENSEI! WE'RE BEGINNING MORNING EXERCISES!
HURRY UP!
AND THEY'RE ALL GOOD KIDS, TOO!
COMING!
YES! EVERYONE HAS BEEN SO KIND TO ME!
N-NO PROBLEM!
SO... HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO YOUR NEW DAYCARE CENTER?
SEE YOU LATER.
WRIGGLE うごご
WRIGGLE うごご
Ditzy

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
YAAY!
YAAY!
YAAY!
THEY'RE ALL GOOD KIDS?!

CHIKA-HITO, WHAT'S THE TIME?
AH!
I--
I HAVE TO HURRY!

SEE YOU LATER!
SEE YOU!

Just remember, when you say, "See you later"...
...you be sure that you come back to see me later, okay?

BUT NONE OF THAT CRAZI-NESS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME, DOES IT?
...BUT IN THAT TIME, I'VE LEARNED THAT ONI EXIST, AND I'VE SEEN MANY UNUSUAL THINGS.
I CAME TO KYOTO AND MET HANA-SAN AND HANA'S FRIENDS.
ONLY A LITTLE TIME HAS PASSED SINCE I STARTED LIVING WITH THEM...
SURE, I KNOW ALL THAT.
...AND I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL POWERS.
I'M STILL JUST AN ORDINARY HIGH-SCHOOL STU-DENT...
SOME-THING ...
BUT I WONDER IF THERE'S SOME-THING I CAN DO...
"SOME-THING" ...?

UAAH!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING ME THE OTHER DAY AT KITANO TEN-MANGU SHRINE.
AH!
S-SURE!
HEY...
THAT--
THAT UNI-FORM...

ME TOO!
I JUST MOVED HERE FROM TOKYO, AND I START AT NISHIJIN HIGH SCHOOL TODAY, ALSO!
I RECENTLY MOVED HERE.
AND STARTING TODAY, I'M AT NISHIJIN HIGH.
ISN'T THAT AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE?!
ほわ…
BWAAH...
IF YOU SEE THAT BOY WITH PURPLE EYES, TELL US--
--IMMEDIATELY!
THAT'S RIGHT! PURPLE EYES...

AH...
NOTHING.
LOOKING CLOSER, THEY'RE DEFINITELY A LIGHT BROWN NOW.
WHAT IS IT?
THEY'RE NOT PURPLE?
MAYBE I WAS JUST SEEING THINGS EARLIER ...?
DOOM
ゴゴゴ
BUT IF I TELL HIM IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE, HE'S GOING TO BLOW HIS TOP!!
AH!
IT'S JUST THAT YOU SEEM LIKE SUCH A FUN PERSON, CHIKAHITO-SAN!
I'M SORRY TO LAUGH!
HEH HEH!

YUU ...?
YES?
AH!
SO... WHAT YEAR ARE YOU?
SEC-OND YEAR.
THEN WE'RE IN THE SAME YEAR!
OKAY, THEN, MAYBE WE CAN STOP USING HONORIFICS AND POLITE LANGUAGE.
YOU JUST USED POLITE LAN-GUAGE TO SAY THAT.
AH!
THEN CALL ME BY MY NAME...
...YUU AOI.
GRAB
WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!
WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY!

LET'S BE GOOD FRIENDS...
...OKAY...
...CHIKA-HITO?

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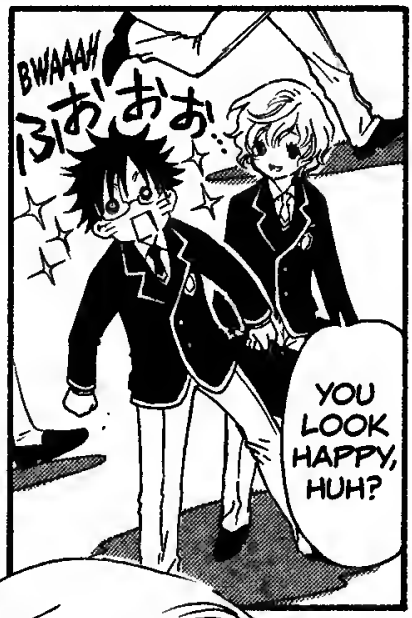
SO THIS IS NISHIJIN HIGH SCHOOL. MY NEW SCHOOL, STARTING TODAY...

IN WHAT WAY?
I WAS JUST THINKING, "JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM KYOTO!"
こくこく NOD NOD


BWAAAH ふおおお
YOU LOOK HAPPY, HUH?

IT'S JUST SO COOL!
LOOK AT IT! IT'S, LIKE, DRIPPING WITH HISTORY!

かあああ BLUUSH
YES, CALL ME YUU.
Y-YUU, WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
TOKYO. SAME AS YOU, CHIKA-HITO.

COME TO THINK OF IT, YUU...
YOU SURE ARE FUNNY...
...CHIKA-HITO!

WELL ...
...I THINK I'D HAVE REMEMBERED IF I HAD EVER SEEN YOU, THOUGH.
TMP
TMP
WE MAY HAVE PASSED EACH OTHER ON THE STREET IN TOKYO.
IS THAT RIGHT?
EH?
W-WELL...
WHY'S THAT?

A FACE AS BEAUTIFUL AS THAT? ONE GLANCE, AND I'D NEVER FORGET!
?
KCHIK
YOU TWO! HURRY OR YOU'LL BE LATE!
OKAY!
AH!
YAAAAH!!
AKECHI !!

DING DONG
TMP
N-NO! I MEAN ...
I KNOW! WHY DON'T YOU GO ON AHEAD?
EH? BUT YOU'LL BE LATE!
I'LL BE FINE. I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
DING DONG
WHUPP
CHIKA-HITO?
DONG
GOT IT.
SEE YOU SOON.
WH--
WH-- WH--
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
WITH YOU? NOTHING.
THEN WHY--

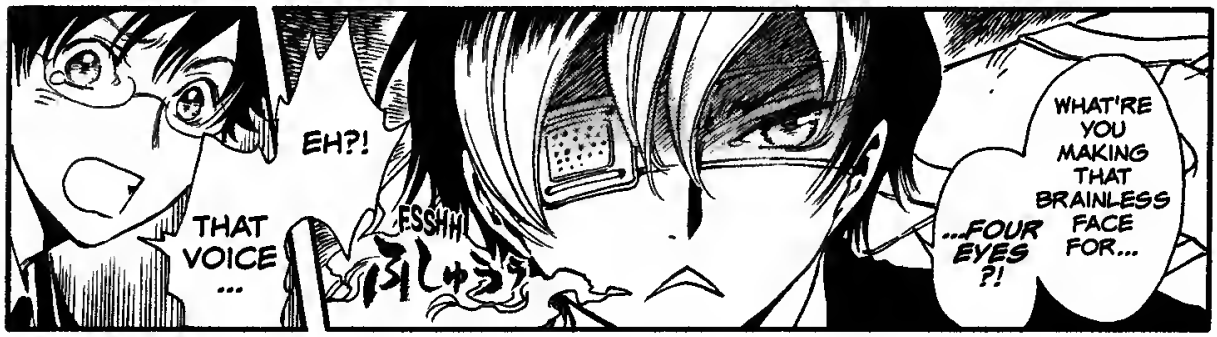
I SIMPLY HEARD THAT THERE WERE TWO NEW TRANSFER STUDENTS.
I DIDN'T EXPECT ONE TO BE YOU.
EH?
EH?
TO HAVE SOMEONE CONNECTED TO THE URA-SHICHIKEN COME TO MY WORK-PLACE...
...IS THAT GOOD LUCK OR BAD LUCK, I WONDER...?
EH?
EH?!
CALL ME "SENSEI," MR. STUDENT.
FOR YOUR INFOR-MATION, I'M THE SCIENCE TEACHER.
DING
DONG
DING
DONG
EHHHH?!

BY THE WAY, I'M AFRAID ...
DING
DONG
...THAT YOU'RE DOOMED TO BE VERY LATE ON YOUR VERY FIRST DAY.
DING
DONG
EHHHHHH?!

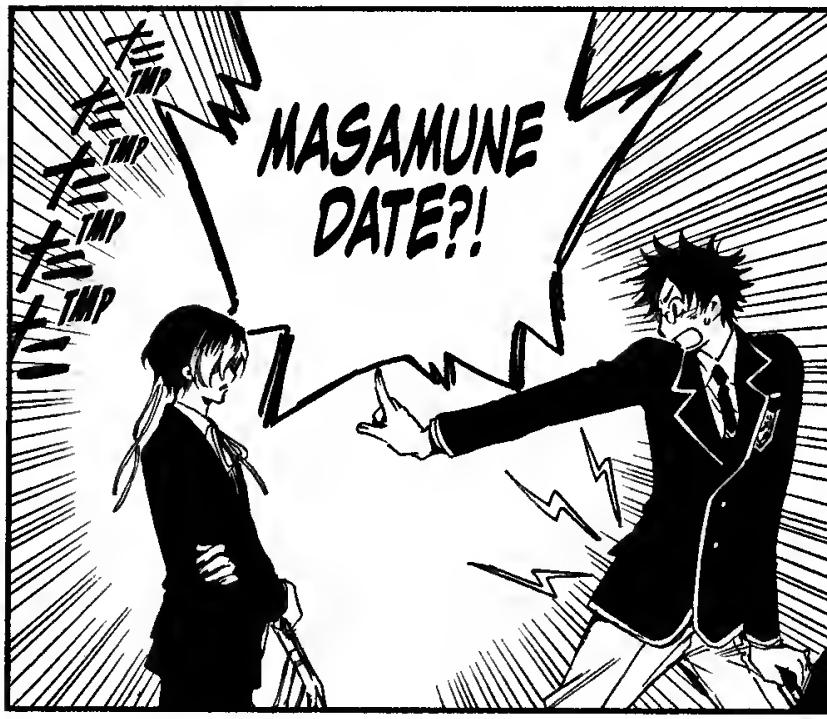
AND WORSE, MITSUHIDE AKECHI WORKS THERE.
I'M JUST HAPPY HE ISN'T MY HOME-ROOM TEACHER, BUT...
はあ
=SIGH=
TRANS-FERRING IN MY THIRD YEAR TO KYOTO, A PLACE I'D ONLY BEEN TO ONCE.
MY VERY FIRST DAY AFTER TRANS-FERRING, AND I WAS LATE.
とぼ
とぼ
SHUFF
SHUFF
I WAS A LITTLE WOR-RIED ABOUT IT, BUT...
YEAH. SEE YOU.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
UH-HUH...
WE JUST DO THIS, AND ...
PIP
PIP
...OUR CELL PHONE PLANS ARE WITH DIFFERENT COMPANIES, SO I HOPE THIS WORKS.
LET'S SEE...
I KNOW!
WHY DON'T WE EXCHANGE TEXTING ADDRESS-ES?
OF COURSE!
N-NO I'M NOT!
ANY-BODY CAN DO THAT!
PAAA!
ぱあっ
YOU'RE AMAZING, CHIKA-HITO!
ALL YOUR INFO IS HERE!

I'M PRETTY BAD AT THIS PHONE STUFF.
COM-PUT-ERS, TOO.
IF THERE'S A PROB-LEM I CAN FIX, I'M HAPPY TO HELP.
THANK YOU! THAT'S SO WONDER-FUL!
AT LEAST I CAN SAY THAT I MADE A FRIEND TODAY.
KA-WHAMM
WAAH!!

WH-WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!


EH?!
THAT VOICE ...
FSSHH
WHAT'RE YOU MAKING THAT BRAINLESS FACE FOR...
...FOUR EYES ?!

KRAK-KOOM
YOW!


MASAMUNE DATE?!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

HOW DARE YOU CALL PEOPLE NAMES!
HE LEFT THE HONORIFIC OFF MY NAME!
AT THE VERY LEAST, CALL HIM MASTER FOUR EYES.
THAT NAME DOESN'T EXACTLY... ...THRILL ME... EITHER ...
NO MATTER HOW ONE LOOKS AT ME...
BUT... ...YOU REALLY ARE AN ELE-MENTARY-SCHOOL STUDENT!
GLARE
AN-GELIC ...
...I'M THE VERY PICTURE OF THE INTEL-LIGENT, ANGELIC ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL STUDENT...
...IS ONE... POS-SIBLE...
...WAY TO LOOK AT...
FWAAH

I...
... SEE ...
ふう
SIGH
HE'S TAKEN ON THE GUISE OF AN HONOR STUDENT AT SCHOOL...
...AND HE SEEMS TO UNDER-STAND HOW TRULY OUT OF CHARAC-TER THIS NEW IDENTITY IS.

MAA-KUN'S VISION OF HANA IN NEED OF RESCUE.
THIS WAY, I CAN RIDE TO THE RESCUE OF THE FAIR HANA WHENEVER REQUIRED!
SO YOU'VE COME FROM TOKYO TO VISIT KYOTO AGAIN?
NO! I'VE TRANS-FERRED HERE! IT'S APRIL, YOU KNOW!
AND AFTER THAT-- OUR WEDDING NIGHT!!
KOOOM

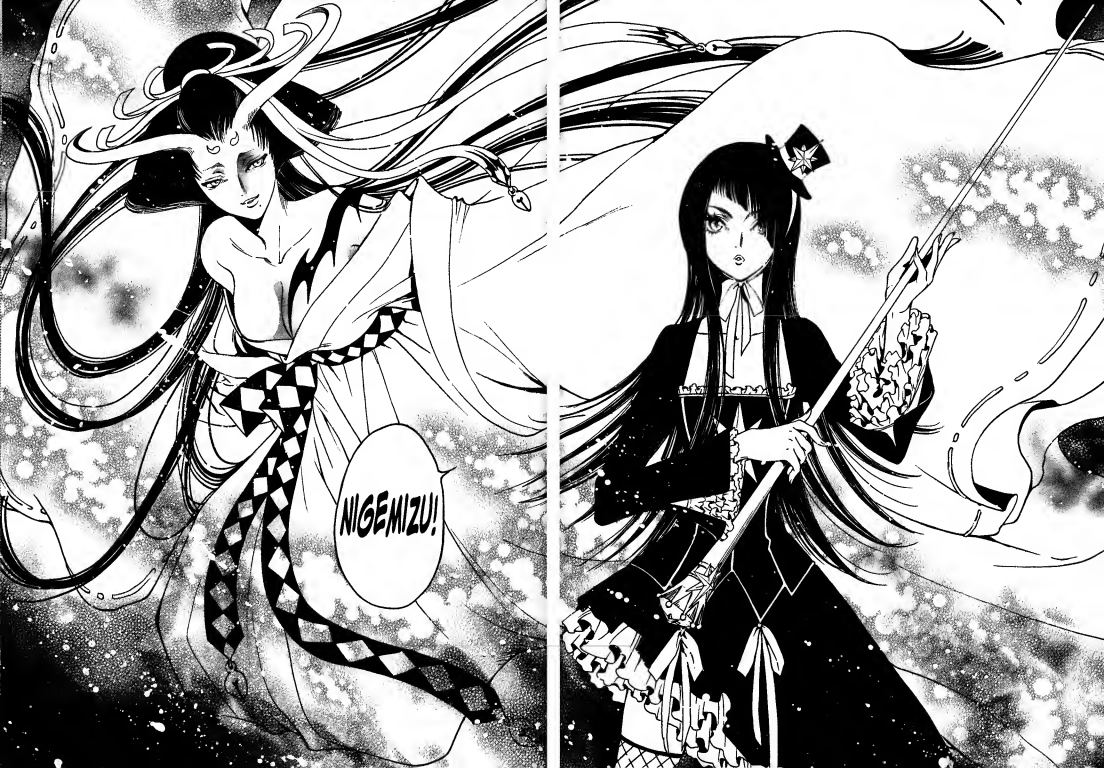
I AM ENTERING THE SIXTH-- AND HIGHEST-- LEVEL OF STUDY THIS YEAR!
WHEN HUH? WE MET BEFORE, DIDN'T HIDETSUGU-SAN MENTION THAT YOU WERE A SIXTH-YEAR STUDENT?
SO SHOULDN'T YOU BE STARTING YOUR FIRST YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL THIS SPRING?
EHHH?!
MY MASTER WANTS TO BE GROWN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO HE'S ALWAYS ADDING YEARS ONTO HIS AGE!
ACTUALLY, WHEN HE WAS JUST IN FIRST YEAR, HE SAID THAT HE WAS A SIXTH GRADER IN FRONT OF EVERY-BODY!
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE CONFU-SION IT CAUSED!
HIDETSUGU-KO IS VERY KIND SO HE DID NOT CONTRADICT THE MASTER, BUT...
FOOL!
HA HA HA!
THEN HE'S ACTU-ALLY...
IN THE MIDST OF FIFTH-GRADE SICKNESS.
BLUNT TRUTH

AH!
MASAMUNE-SAMA!
AGAIN?!

YOU ARE AN ABSO-LUTE FOOL.
TAK
TAK
TAK
SO THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, I SEE. MASAMUNE DATE IS A FOOL...
...IN THIS LIFE AS WELL.
NOT AS MUCH A FOOL...
...AS YOUR MASTER, TADAOKI HOSO-KAWA.
SO I GUESS EVEN AN IDIOT LIKE YOU CAN TELL...
...WHO I AM.

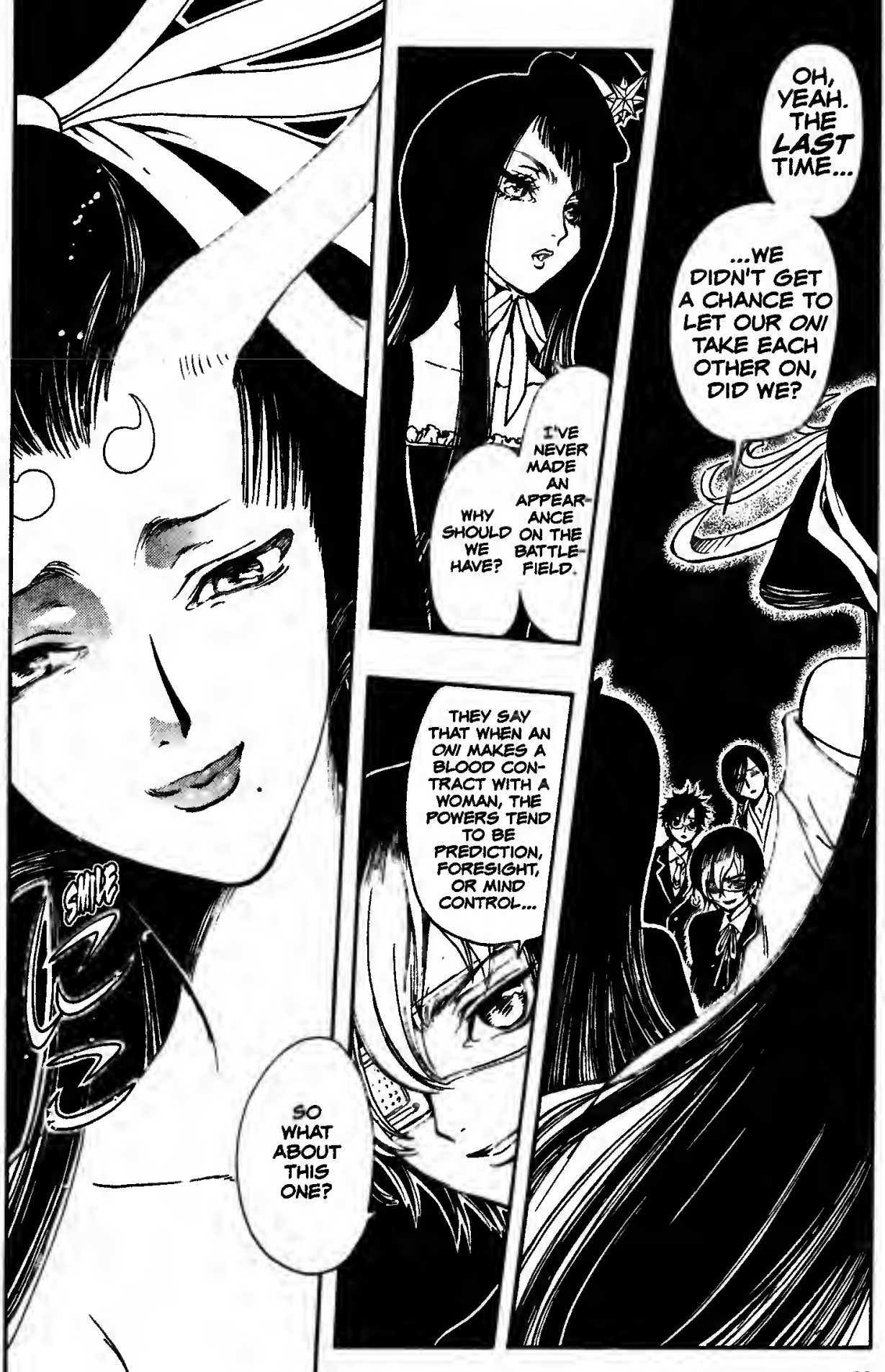
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT...
...TAMA?
CALL ME GRACIA, YOU FOOL!
MASA-MUNE DATE...
...IT IS FAIR TO ASSUME YOU HAVE TAKEN THE TOYO-TOMI SIDE, IS IT NOT?
I TAKE ORDERS FROM NO ONE!
PANIC PANIC
BUT...

...THEN, OUR WEDDING NIGHT!
...AS LONG AS MY BE-LOVED HANA IS IN THE URA-SHICHIKEN ...
...I WILL STAND AS HANA'S PRO-TECTOR !!
WHTT
AS I THOUGHT ...
ONCE A FOOL...
...ALWAYS A FOOL.
IN ANY CASE ...
...I WILL NOW TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR ONI.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!


NIGEMIZU!

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

CHAPTER ELEVEN: MASAMUNE AND GRACIA


OH, YEAH. THE LAST TIME...
...WE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO LET OUR ONI TAKE EACH OTHER ON, DID WE?
I'VE NEVER MADE AN APPEARANCE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
WHY SHOULD WE HAVE?
THEY SAY THAT WHEN AN ONI MAKES A BLOOD CONTRACT WITH A WOMAN, THE POWERS TEND TO BE PREDICTION, FORESIGHT, OR MIND CONTROL...
SMILE
SO WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?

BWAH HA HA HA HA HA
MY SOUL CAN'T BE CONTROLLED SO EASILY!
AFTER ALL, IT BELONGS TO HANA!
MROW!
SHUT THAT IDIOT UP.
MAA-KUN'S DELUSION.
YES, YOUR LADYSHIP...
SLIP
AHH!!

MASA-
MUNE-
SAMA!

ENN
ENN
ENN

HYUUN
WATCH OUT!
WHAPSH
YOU HAVE A FUN ONI, DON'T YOU, TAMA?
HMM?
GRACIA.

OKAY. WE'LL PLAY ALONG.
ME AND MY OWN CUTE LITTLE ONI.
KOJYUU-ROH!
WHAPP
FWOOOO

ME...
...AND KURI-KARA HERE!
SHIN

KRANG
KRANG
HWOOSH
KOJYUU-ROH!
UNDER-STOOD!
HWIP
?!
?!
STRONG-ARM

KRAKOOM
KYUUU
SKATCH
EHHHH?!
FWIP
SK'RRCH
KAANNNG
QUIT ALL THAT DISTRACTING RUNNING AROUND...
...MASTER FOUR EYES!
I--
I'M NOT!
SHFF
SHFF
CLUTCH
KTANNG
OR RATHER...
...I DON'T HAVE A SAY IN THIS!!

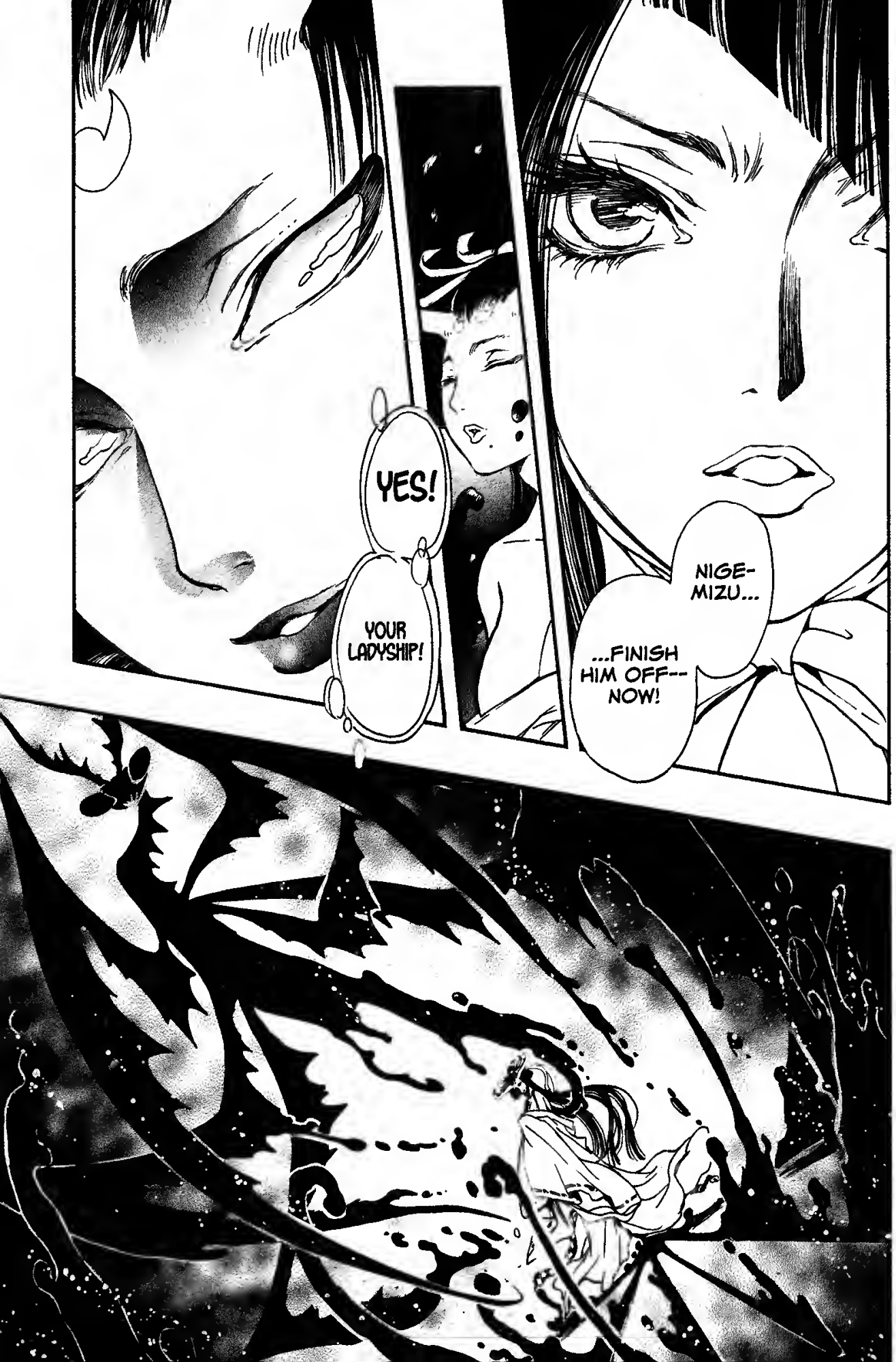
SNAP
KRITCH
KRITCH
OH, COME ON!
YOU'RE HAVING ME PLAY WITH A LUKEWARM ONE LIKE THIS ONE?
AND IRRITATING!
YOU REALLY ARE A FOOL!
YOU'RE ALL MOUTH, EVER SINCE ANCIENT TIMES!
FWSSH
KANNG
DID YOU JUST CALL ME "ALL MOUTH" ...?
I'M ALL "SKILLS" TOO!

GARYOU-
HOUSU!!

AMAZ-
ING!!
HEAVY
WEAPON
WAIT, THAT WAS AN ATTACK NAME? IF HE DOESN'T SAY IT, IT WON'T WORK?
ON THE CON-
TRARY.
HE NEEDN'T SAY ANYTHING AT ALL, BUT HE IS FULLY IN THE MIDST OF FIFTH-GRADE SICK-NESS.
KRIING

SHITCH

AW, SHUT UP, MASTER FOUR-EYED FOOL! THE NAME LOOKS GOOD IN KANJI, THAT'S ALL!
YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THIS IS HIS WAY OF SAYING, "THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW HOW GREAT I AM," IS IT...?
HM?
GARYOU-HOUSU WAS MEANT TO REFER TO KONG-MING...
A POWERFUL FORCE THAT THE WORLD ISN'T AWARE OF YET.
MASAMUNE-SAMA, JUST BECAUSE HE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD...
...DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL HIM NAMES.
I USED "MASTER," DIDN'T I?!
THIS IS HOW A TRUE IDIOT ACTS.
I CAN'T STAND ALL THIS TALK.
PACH


NIGE-MIZU...
...FINISH HIM OFF-- NOW!
YES!
YOUR LADYSHIP!

SLITCH
MASAMUNE
DATE!!

ASLEEP AT THE TABLE AGAIN.
NOW WHERE DO WE KEEP THOSE COMFORT-ERS?

YEAH.
I'M WAITING.
...YOU DON'T COME.
YEAH.
I'M WAITING, BUT...
YEAH.
YOU REFUSE TO COME BACK.

YOU WON'T COME BACK...
...FOR ME...

That person isn't anywhere.
NOT ANY-WHERE...
=SNIFF=
NOT HERE!
Not here, either.

But we'll meet again.
It might be a long, long way down the road.
But...
...we will meet again.
So stay put. Don't vanish. Wait.
Wait for that person.

YOUR WISH, YOUR LADYSHIP?
YES.
ONI HANDED DOWN FROM DATE PATRIARCH TO DATE PATRIARCH ...
...KURI-KARA"...
TAK
TAK

WHT
FWASSH
I SHALL ...
...NOW USE YOU AS YOU WERE MEANT TO BE USED.
DO NOT DARE TOUCH ME, LITTLE GIRL!

HWISSH

THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN TOUCH KURIKARA ARE ITS SHEATH, KATAKURA, AND ITS MASTER-- ME!
WHNNK
PHEW!
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT HANA?
HANA GETS TO TOUCH ANYTHING HANA WANTS!
THAT'S BE-CAUSE HANA'S MY LITTLE KITTEN!

MAA-KUN'S DELUSION.
NO, WAIT!
THE ONLY THING HANA'S GOING TO TOUCH IS ME!
HANA!!
HM.
THAT'S A "KITTEN"...?
YOU THINK THAT IS CUTE?
EH?
IT IS VERY MUCH LIKE AN ONI TO BE STRONG TO COMPENSATE FOR A MASTER'S SHORTCOMINGS...
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...

...IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO SHOW A BIT OF OUR TRUE STRENGTH AS WELL.
NIGE-MIZU!
YES...
YOUR LADY-SHIP...
ZAASH

EHH?!
FSHAAA
WAAA
...I GET IT NOW.
HWISH
CHOKK
CHOKK

NIGE-MIZU... "ESCAP-ING WATER" ...
IT MEANS IT'S ALL A MIRAGE, RIGHT?
FOOL.
AH!

KOJYUU-ROH-SAN!
VYUUU
KANG
KANG
KRANG
HWISSH
U-UMP
U-UMP
KANNG

RELAX.
KOJYUU-ROH-SAN!
KTANG
MASA-MUNE-SAMA ...
...CAN DO IT IF HE TRIES.
KTANG
DOOOM
EHHHHH?!
HFF!
HFF!
I DON'T THINK THIS IS A "YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU TRY" MOMENT!!

I'M GETTING KIND OF ANXIOUS TO GO SEE HANA.
I THINK THIS NEEDS TO END.
I AGREE.
NOW, IF ONLY YOU'LL JUST GIVE UP.
FOOL.
WHSH
WHK
THE ONE ABOUT TO LOSE IS...

TWITCH
...YOU!
KROOM

ZHAAA

DA-DMMP
DA-DMMP
YOU THINK SUCH A WEAK EFFORT CAN HIDE AN ONI FROM ME?
DA-DMMP
HFF!
HFF!
HAS IT BEEN SO LONG SINCE THE WARRING STATES ERA THAT YOU'VE FORGOT-TEN WHAT A FIGHT TO THE DEATH IS...
...GRACIA?

MASA-
MUNE...
...DATE
...

WHY D-DOES THAT GIRL...
...LOOK LIKE SHE'S IN A LOT OF PAIN?!
TWEAK
HFF!
IN NEARLY ALL CASES, DAMAGES TAKEN BY ONI ARE PASSED ON TO THEIR CONTRACTED PARTNERS.
A BLOOD CONTRACT WITH AN ONI IS EXACTLY THAT--A CONTRACT OF BLOOD.

HOW MUCH OF IT IS PASSED ON?
THAT DEPENDS ON THE STRENGTH OF THE CONTRACTED OWNER.
THE STRONGEST ONES ...
...ARE HIGHLY SKILLED IN METHODS THAT AVOID INJURIES AND PAIN. HOWEVER--
WHOOSH
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN A LOT OF PAIN!

TAMA-DONO ...
...HAS NOT BEEN BAPTIZED BY THE FIRES OF WAR.
FOR THAT REASON, SHE MIGHT FEEL MUCH OF WHAT HER ONI FEELS.
TH--
THEN ...
...JUST NOW, THAT GIRL...
...SHE FELT THE PAIN OF BEING STABBED WITH THAT BLADE?!
THAT IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE WHO IS CONTRACTED TO AN ONI DOES BATTLE.

BLOOOSH
WHKK
GRACIA HOSO-KAWA!
SLITCH

I, MASAMUNE DATE...
...WILL USE YOUR ONI, NIGEMIZU, AS IT SHOULD BE USED!
FWOOSH
WHSH
CHIKAHITO-SAN?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, SOMEONE'S GOING TO DIE!
WHAT?! WE'RE BOTH CONTRACTED TO ON!!
WE'RE PREPARED FOR THAT!
THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN TRUE IN THE WARRING STATES PERIOD...
...BUT THIS IS PRESENT-DAY JAPAN!!

FWSH
THEN... NOW... IT'S ALL THE SAME!
THIS IS HOW THE ONES CONTRACTED TO ONI HAVE ALWAYS FOUGHT!
AT TIMES IT MEANS PUTTING YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE.

OUT OF THE WAY!
NO!
LEAVE... HE MEANS IT.
THEN... YOU'LL GET YOURSELF CUT DOWN TOO!
....

AAAA

ZWNN
IN DEFER-ENCE TO THE FOUR-EYED FOOL, YOU CAN KEEP YOUR LIFE...
...BUT ...

POHH
SHUUUU
NIGEMIZU!
...I GET TO KEEP YOUR ONI!
AS LONG AS THIS SEAL EXISTS, NIGEMIZU IS MINE TO COMMAND!

YOU WANT THE SEAL REMOVED, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BEAT ME. GO AHEAD. DO YOUR WORST.
YOU LITTLE --!
WISH
SWOON

GRAB
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL VERY SOON.

KO-JYUU-ROH...
...I ONLY MET THIS GUY A SHORT WHILE AGO, RIGHT?
AND SOME MEDICAL ATTEN-TION FOR YOU, TOO, MASA-MUNE-SAMA.
MASA-MUNE-SAMA?
.....

THE WAY HE STOOD AGAINST ME LIKE THAT...
I HAVE A FEEL-ING...
...THAT I'VE SEEN THAT BEFORE... SOME-PLACE...

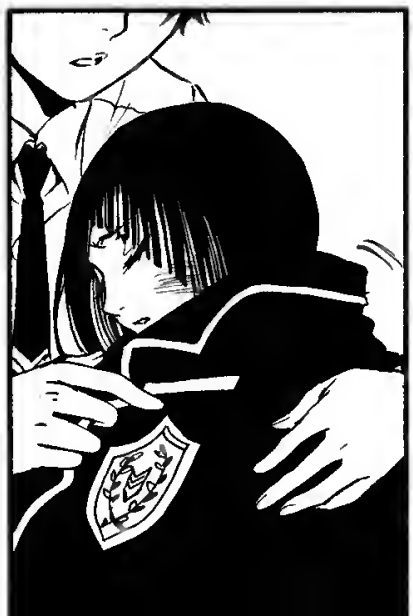
...I'll be sure to keep my vow.
And if we do meet...
...this time...

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

CHAPTER TWELVE: THE UNSEEN THREAT

VNNN
AH!
WHMMP

WHEN SHE PASSES OUT, IT VANISHES.
IT WAS AN ENVELOPMENT CREATED BY GRACIA.



PANIC PANIC
あせあせ
IT SURPRISES ME EVERY TIME!
AND IT STILL SHOCKS YOU?!
HOLD IT!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN IN ONE OF THESE?!

TACHIBANA-SAN!
AND YOU TOO, HANA-SAN?!
YOU STAGED A BATTLE HERE ON URASHICHIKEN-PROTECTED LAND!
THAT'S SOME NERVE!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO PICKED THE FIGHT!
とと TAP TAP TAP
GLANCE

TAP
ちょん
CHIKA-HITO, YOUR COAT...
ZUWHAPP
HANA! ME TOO!
I'M WOUNDED TOO!!
N-NO, IT'S JUST--
HER OWN COAT WAS RIPPED --
SHE'S HURT AND--
UM...
UM...
PANIC
PANIC
あわあわ
...

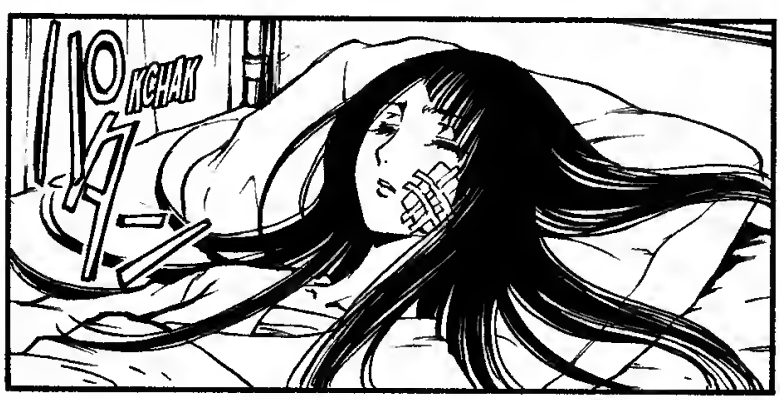
mmm
UH...
LICK
EXACTLY WHAT IS THE DAY AND DATE TODAY, KOJYUU-ROH?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE QUESTION?
THIS WILL BE A DATE ETERNALLY MEMORIALIZED IN THE DATE FAMILY!
AND I'LL GO ON A HONEYMOON WITH HANA EVERY YEAR ON THIS DAY!!
BLUNT
BLUNT
ABOVE AND BEYOND THE EMBARRASSMENT YOU ARE PRESENTLY CAUSING HANA-SAN, HONEYMOONS ARE NOT AN ANNUAL EVENT.

I'LL...
...GO WITH YOU TOO...
.....
Eh?
BEFORE WE GET SIDE-TRACKED, WE MUST SEE TO THE TREAT-MENT OF TAMA-DONO.
AND YOU, TOO, MASAMUNE-SAMA.
WHPP
EH?
YOU HAVE OTHER DUTIES TO SEE TO.

SIGN IN PANEL 1: PONTO-CHO
DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
HUH?
NO.
IT DOESN'T.
先斗町
EVEN IF I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL WITH THEM...
...I DOUBT I COULD COME UP WITH A DECENT EXPLANATION FOR HOW SHE GOT HURT.
I WOULDN'T BE MUCH HELP.
OR MAYBE ...
...SINCE I'M NOT REALLY A PART OF THIS GROUP...
...I SHOULDN'T BE INVOLVED.
GRAB

WRONG.
YOU ARE INVOLVED.
YOU'RE WITH US.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE IN-VOLVED!

...THANK YOU.
THAT'S TRUE, HUH?
YEAH, WE'VE ONLY JUST MET, BUT AS LONG AS WE'RE ALL TOGETHER LIKE THIS...
...I SHOULDN'T GO MAKING MYSELF DEPRESSED. I SHOULD BE GOING OUT AND GIVING THIS MY BEST!
THAT STARTS WITH DOING THE SHOPPING!
GLENCH
WHISPER
We haven't "only just met."



SIGN: MEDICAL UNIVERSITY/HOSPITAL

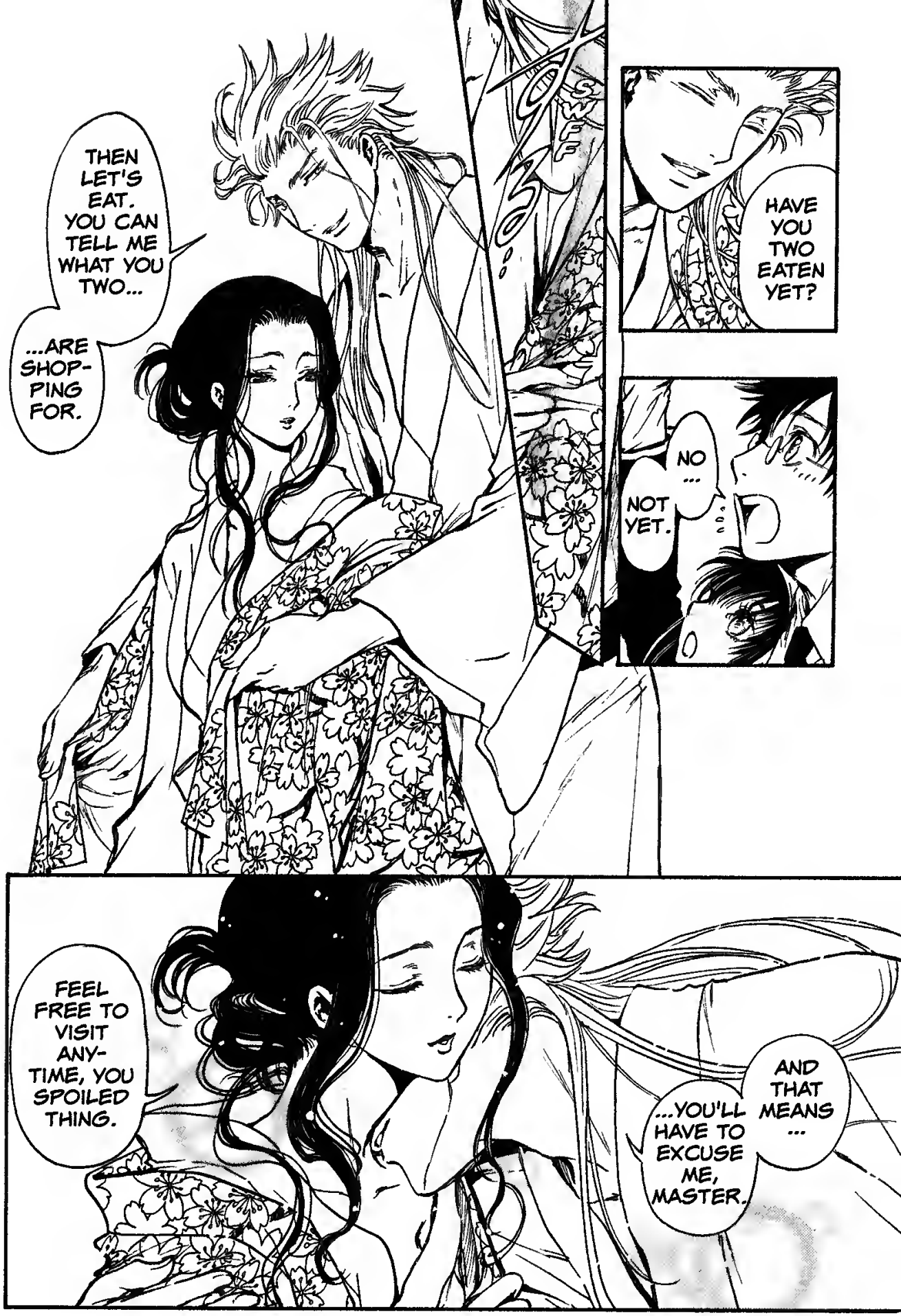
HOW IS SHE?
THE SAME.
SHE MUST HAVE MET AND TALKED WITH IEMITSU TOKUGAWA...
...BUT SHE REMEMBERS NOTHING OF THE IMPORTANT DETAILS.
YES.
YOU THINK IT'S THE WORK OF IEMITSU'S ONI?

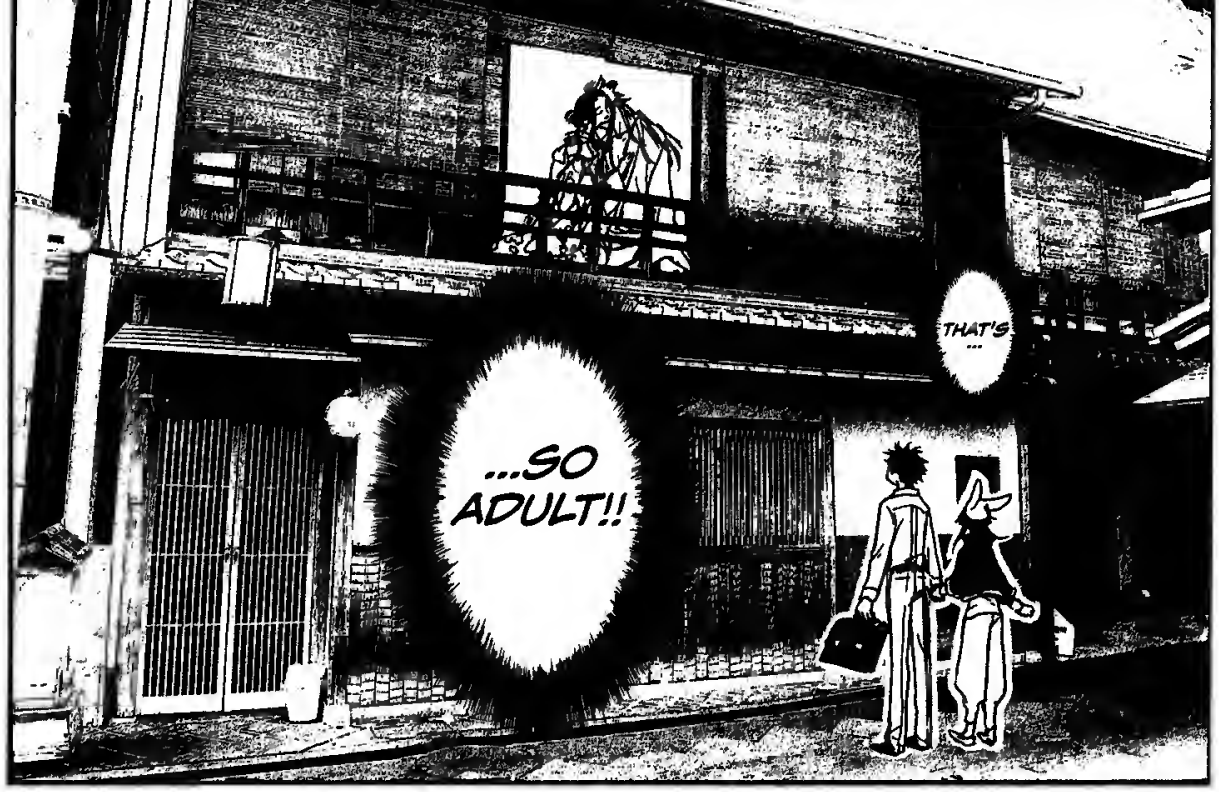
AND THAT MEANS ...
NOTHING ON THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF SUGI-HIME EITHER, HUH?
CLENCH
...
SOME WAY OR OTHER, WE NEED A CLUE AS TO THE POWERS OF IEMITSU'S ONI!
UNTIL WE CAN FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT IT...

...IT'LL BE SEKIGA-HARA ALL OVER AGAIN!
ふおおお
UAAAH!

PONTO-CHO IS REALLY AMAZ-ING!
SOME-BODY REALLY DID A NUMBER ON THAT TELE-PHONE POLE!
DNN
YOU CRANE YOUR NECK ANY FARTHER UPWARD, YOU'RE GOING TO FALL OVER BACK-WARD...
...CHIKA-CHAN.
SAKURA-SAN!
WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING?

SHFF
WHO'S OUT THERE?
SHOP-PING.
HM?
OH!
HOW SWEET, WALKING HAND IN HAND.
YOU TWO MUST BE CLOSE.
YEAH! REAL CLOSE!
PWFFF
...HANA.
I THINK CHIKA-CHAN'S ABOUT TO FAINT...
FSSSH


HAVE YOU TWO EATEN YET?
NO ... NOT YET.
THEN LET'S EAT. YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT YOU TWO...
...ARE SHOPPING FOR.
FEEL FREE TO VISIT ANYTIME, YOU SPOILED THING.
...YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME, MASTER.
AND THAT MEANS ...


...SO ADULT!!
THAT'S ...

SIGN: LI NAM HA
李南河
18
YOU KNOW, THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THAT TASTE GOOD, TOO.
COLD NOODLES!
YEAH!
BUT NOODLES TASTE THE VERY BEST!
COLD NOODLES!

I-IT'S GOOOD!
GULP
GLAD TO HEAR IT.
KOREAN FOOD IN KYOTO?
YOU SHOULD EAT IT, CHIKA-CHAN.
OH... OKAY.
SO...
...WHAT'S THE "SHOP-PING" ABOUT?
AH! YOU'RE EATING, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO RUSH.
NOD
NOD
ON MY WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, I MET MASAMUNE-SAN... ER... KUN...?
WELL... HE IS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SO KUN SHOULD BE FINE.
TH-THEN... MASA-MUNE-KUN.
I MET HIM AND KOJYUU-ROH-SAN.
THEN A PERSON NAMED GRACIA HOSOKAWA CAME ALONG...

EMPTY
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
SLURP
SLURRRRRP
I SEE...
SO IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT GRACIA CAME FROM THE TOKUGAWA SIDE OF THINGS.

DON'T WORRY.
NOBODY WOULD ASK UNWANTED QUESTIONS THERE, I IMAGINE.
THERE'S A HOSPITAL CLOSE TO WHERE YOU WERE THAT'S UNDER HIDETSUGU'S INFLUENCE.
I THINK THEY WENT TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER THAT, BUT...
HANA'S BEEN THERE, TOO.
THE DOCTORS ARE VERY NICE!
SHLURRP
Y-YOU MEAN YOU GET INJURED THAT OFTEN?!
THE URASHICHIKEN ARE REGULAR CUSTOMERS THERE, AFTER ALL.
WELL...
...IT DEPENDS ON WHO OUR OPPONENT IS.

UWUNNN
WE'LL SEE WHAT KIND OF OPPONENT THIS ONE IS.
NOW...
EH?

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

GATE 7 VOLUME 3 TRANSLATION NOTES

COMPILED BY WILLIAM FLANAGAN

General notes on Kyoto: *Kyoto was one of the few large Japanese population centers to escape the extremely destructive American firebombing of World War II that burned historical sites in nearly every other Japanese city close to Kyoto's size. The determination not to bomb Kyoto was a conscious decision by American civilian and military leadership in deference to Kyoto's many historical buildings and landmarks. Although some other historical sites in more rural locations—such as Ise or Izumo—were also spared, cities that were formerly rich in history (such as Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, and Kobe—not to mention Hiroshima and Nagasaki) have all had to rebuild replicas of their ancient historic landmarks. Kyoto is the one large Japanese city where history is still very much in evidence.*

Page 41, Sugi-*hime*: Like *sakura* and *tachibana, sugi* is the name of a tree—a kind of cedar tree. *Hime* is more of a job title than an honorific, but it's used both ways. It means "princess" or "highborn lady."

Page 51: The verb *katsu* means "to win." The noun *katsu* (spelled with different kanji) refers to a breaded pork cutlet. It's very common for Japanese good-luck charms and customs to stem from wordplay and puns. In this case, eating *katsu* will help you win. *Harusame* vermicelli is a very thin potato starch (or mung bean starch) noodle. When cooked, it comes out transparent, and that's why it's been called "cellophane noodles" in the West.

Page 52, "Give it your best." The phrase *ganbatte kudasai* is usually translated as "good luck," but the true meaning is "try hard." In this scene, Sakura uses the genteel-sounding Kyoto dialect to say *okihariyasu,* which means the same thing.

Page 54, panel 6: Ponto-cho is a street in Kyoto only a block or so from Sanjō Kawara. (As noted in *Gate 7* Volume 1, Sanjō Kawara is an area on the banks of the Kamogawa River that was used for executions during the Japanese middle ages.)

Ponto-cho is a traditional-looking dining district. The narrow road leads to restaurants that span the range from inexpensive eateries to exclusive establishments where one needs special connections and a lot of money to enter.

Page 68: The second year of high school is an age commonly used in manga and fiction about high-school students. By the second year, students have become familiar with their school, but they don't yet have the burden of studying for the all-important college entrance exams, as third-year students do. In Japanese schools, honorifics are often used among classmates, but they can create psychological distance. Classmates who want to be friends will quickly drop the honorifics.

Page 78, "Why don't we exchange texting addresses?" In America, most cell phone texts are sent to cell phone numbers, but in Japan, texting addresses are much like Internet e-mail addresses.

Page 82, "It's April, you know!" In the vast majority of Japanese schools, the school year begins in April, so if one is going to transfer to a new school (as Masamune Date does), April is the logical time to do it. Also, concerning "Maa-*kun*": It is common to create a nickname by taking the first syllable of a name and adding

In the vast majority of Japanese schools, the school year begins in April.

the honorific (usually *chan* but sometimes *kun* or *san*) directly after it.

Page 83, fifth-grade sickness: This ill-defined "sickness" usually refers to a lethargy or lack of motivation because of the year one is in at school. For example, fifth-grade sickness would indicate that because the fifth grade is a "middle year," one feels less motivated to study than if one were actively studying for exams (for a final year of school) or trying to make a good impression in a new school (for first-year students).

Page 85, Tadaoki Hosokawa: An important lord and general during the Warring States period, Tadaoki Hosokawa married the daughter of Mitsuhide Akechi, but even so, Hosokawa refused to help Akechi militarily after Akechi betrayed Nobunaga. Hosokawa fought on the side of Hideyoshi during the 1580s and early 1590s. In the 1590s, he befriended Ieyasu Tokugawa, and when the general of the Toyotomi faction made a hostage of his wife Gracia and she committed suicide in captivity, Hosokawa sided firmly with the Tokugawa faction from then on. At the turning-point battle of Sekigahara, Hosokawa commanded troops in Tokugawa's vanguard.

Page 86, Tama/Gracia: Gracia Hosokawa is one of the earliest Japanese-born Catholic saints. Because of that, some of the facts of her life are in dispute between historical and hagiographic records.

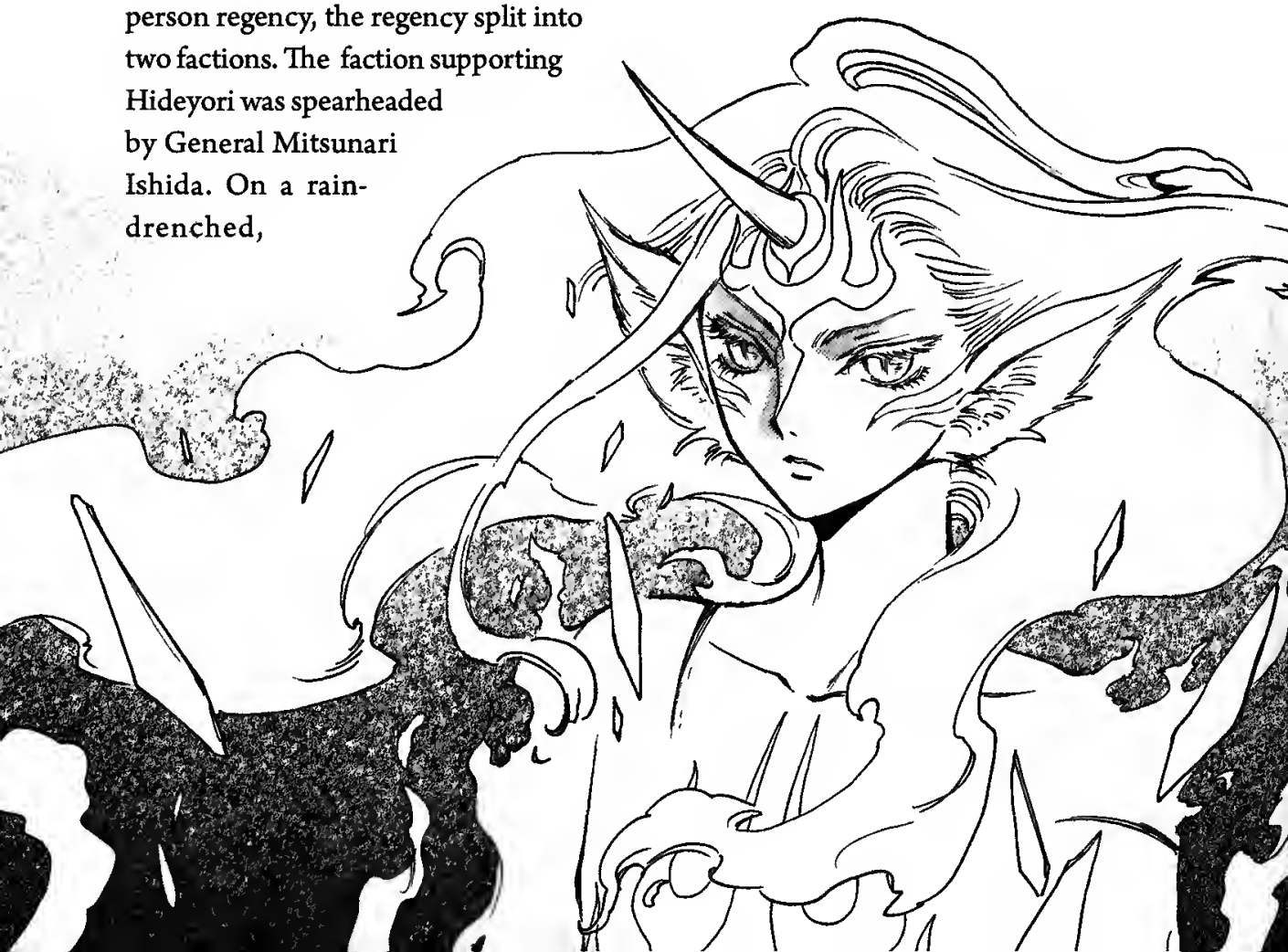
Born as Tama, the third daughter of Mitsuhide Akechi (a general during the Warring States period), she was married off to Tadaoki Hosokawa. When Akechi betrayed Nobunaga, Tadaoki was forced to divorce his wife for a time. However, they reunited following Akechi's death, after the political turbulence died down. It is thought that she converted to Christianity sometime in the late 1580s or early 1590s. After Tadaoki had sided with Tokugawa, the Toyotomi faction's general, Mitsunari Ishida, made hostages of wives and children on the Tokugawa side to attempt to gain leverage over some of Tokugawa's forces. Reportedly, Gracia ordered her servants to set fire to her mansion, thus killing her (she was not permitted suicide under her Christian faith), so she could not be used as a pawn against her husband and Tokugawa. Other reports say that the servants acted on Tadaoki's direct orders. In the 1860s, Gracia was canonized by the Vatican as the first Japanese saint.

Page 89, Nigemizu: This *oni*'s name is made up of two Japanese kanji—*nigeru*, which means "to run away," and *mizu*, which means "water."

Page 103: The phrase *garyouhousu* refers to two characters in *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. *Garyou* is the Japanese pronunciation of *Wolong*, which means "crouching dragon" and refers to the strategist Zhuge Liang, who is also known

as Kongming. *Housu* is the Japanese pronunciation of *Fengchu*, which means "young phoenix" and refers to the advisor Pang Tong.

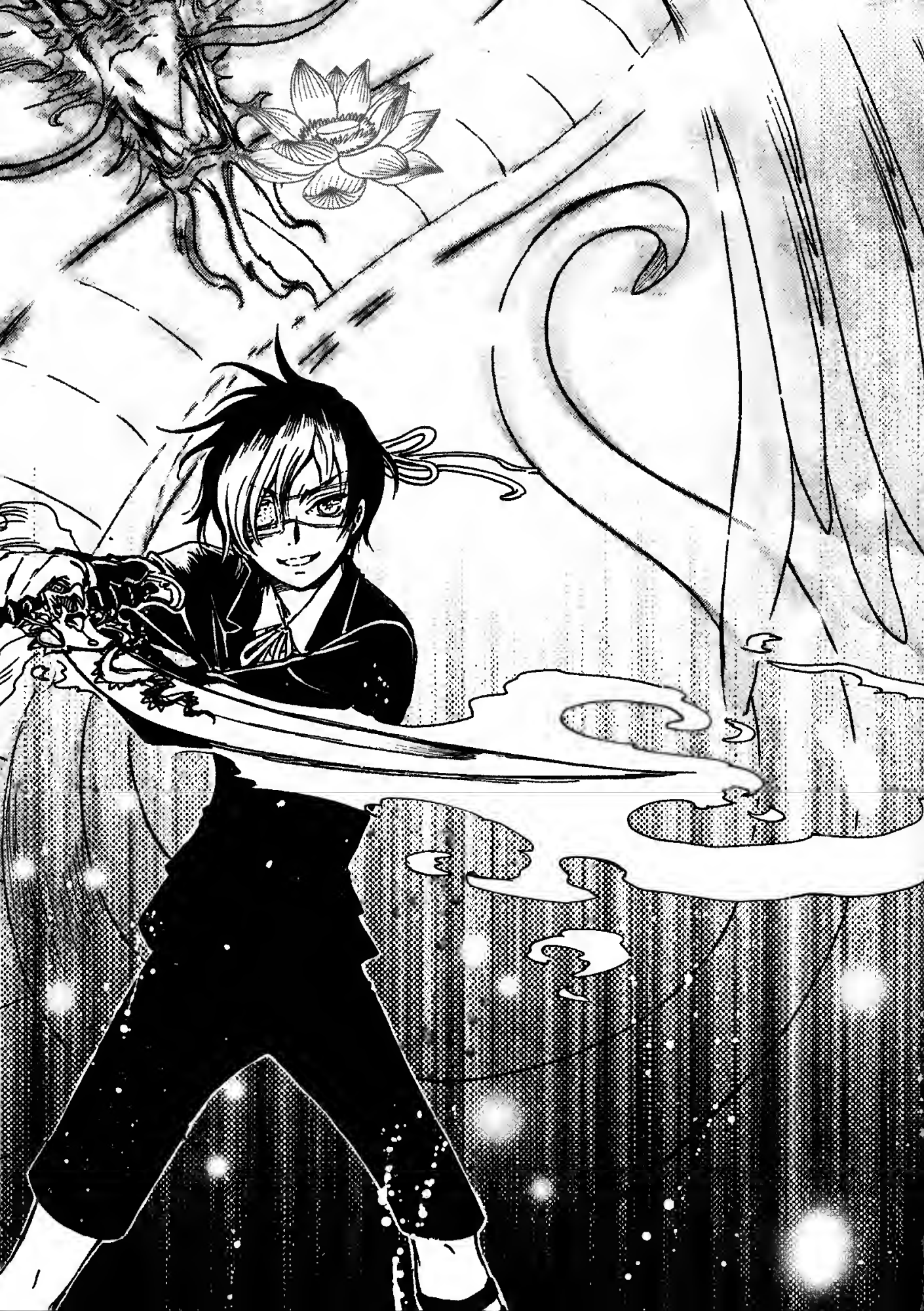
Page 165, Sekigahara: The Battle of Sekigahara was the turning point in the war between the Toyotomi faction after Hideyoshi's death and the surging Tokugawa clan headed by Ieyasu Tokugawa. After Hideyoshi Toyotomi died, leaving his baby son Hideyori under the protection of a five-person regency, the regency split into two factions. The faction supporting Hideyori was spearheaded by General Mitsunari Ishida. On a rain-drenched, foggy day, a battle of attrition began in the mountainous region called Sekigahara. At about noon, Ishida's army managed to gain some ground against Ieyasu Tokugawa while Tokugawa was still waiting for some 38,000 troops led by his son Hidetada to finally arrive. Sensing the tide had turned in his favor, Ishida called on fresh troops commanded by Hideaki Kobayakawa to overwhelm Tokugawa's forces. Ishida would have won the day had Kobayakawa



done as he was ordered, but he did nothing. Tokugawa had already managed to get to Kobayakawa as well as some other Toyotomi allies and persuaded them to betray Ishida. Ishida's near victory turned into a rout, and Ishida himself was tracked down and executed. Although there were several battles after this one, the Battle of Sekigahara is considered to be the turning point in history that most directly led to the rise to power of the Tokugawa shogunate, which ruled Japan for more than two hundred and sixty years afterward.

Page 168: In this scene, Sakura's lover says *itsudemo kite-kureyasu*, a Kyoto way of saying *itsudemo kite kudasai*, which means "come by whenever you like." Like most regions, Kyoto has a distinct dialect of its own. The dialect is considered a part of the western dialects (the *Kansai-ben*, which includes Osaka, Kobe, Nara, and others), but it has its own distinct flavor. The Kyoto dialect exudes a sense of old-style, cultured civility.

Page 169, cold noodles: Although the restaurant that Sakura, Hana, and Chikahito are visiting features Korean food, it was the Chinese who popularized cold noodles. They are usually ramen-style noodles served cold with meats and vegetables, all bathed in a thin but tasty sauce.



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